GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4063
ANSWERED ON:10.08.2016
DISHA
Hay Prof. Richard

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the salient features and present status of scheme "DISHA";

(b) the details of the funds earmarked, allocated and utilised under this scheme since its inception, year-wise;

(c) the number of women who have been provided opportunities under this scheme so far since its inception, year-wise;

(d) the details of the target fixed and achieved so far, year-wise since its inception;

(e) whether the target under this scheme is running behind schedule; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor along with the action taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

(a) The salient features of DISHA scheme, which was started in 2012-13 by Department of Science & Technology, were to increase the contribution of women in Science and Technology (S&T) sector. It was primarily aimed at bringing gender parity and equity in S&T sector by inducting more women talent in the research & development (R&D) domain through various programmes, namely, Fellowship Schemes for women who had a break in career [i.e. Women Scientist Scheme-A (WOS-A) to enable unemployed women scientists & technologists to pursue research in basic or applied sciences, Women Scientist Scheme-B (WOS-B) to address societal issues at the grassroots level and find appropriate S&T solutions, and Women Scientist Scheme-C (WOS-C) to provide alternative career option of self employment by training women in Intellectual Property Rights]. DISHA also provided Institutional support through Consolidation of University Research through Innovation and Excellence in Women Universities (CURIE) programme and addressed challenges being faced by women mostly in health & hygiene, nutrition and occupational hazards by establishing Women Technology Parks (WTP). In 2014-15, this scheme was restructured to make it more holistic and named as KIRAN (Knowledge Involvement in Research Advancement through Nurturing) which covered all the women-centric programmes of Department of Science & Technology. In 2016-17, a new component namely "Mobility" has been launched under KIRAN to address relocation issue of working Women Scientists. Further, they are also encouraged to avail of capacity building initiatives including training related to basic research, societal development and self-employment. DST has also constituted "Standing Committee for Promoting Women in Science" in May, 2016 comprising several eminent scientists & technologists, to identify various other issues faced by women in S&T domain and suggest measures to address the same.

(b) The budget allocated and utilized under DISHA is as follows −

Financial Year Budget allocated
(Rs. in crores) Budget utilized
(Rs. in crores)
2012-13 48 48
2013-14 43 43
2014-15 44 44
2015-16 58 58
2016-17 60 24.7
(till 31st July 2016)

(c) & (d): The year-wise details of number of women who had a break in career and been facilitated under the scheme to return to mainstream research in science, since its inception are given in table below. The Table also indicates details of target fixed and achieved, so far.

Financial Year 2012-13 2013-14 2014-15 2015-16 2016-17
Number of women benefitted 242 377 247 311 227
(till 31 July 2016)
Target 200 300 300 300 300

(e) No, Madam. Targets have been achieved.

(f) Does not arise.

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